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Kalispel Tribe of Indians
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December 16, 2011

Michael Bussell, Director
EPA Region 10 OWW, 1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Re: Kalispel consultation for EPA approval of Idaho Water Quality Standards

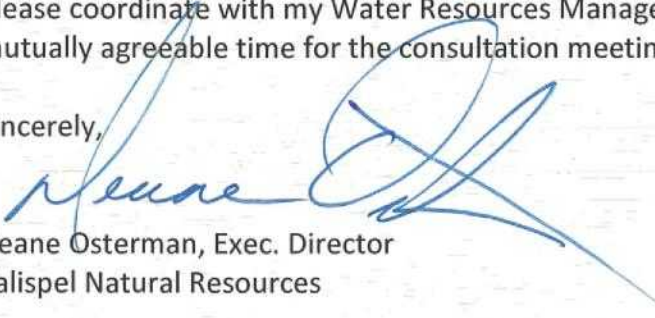
Dear Mr. Bussell,

Kalispel Natural Resource Department staff recently participated in a conference call between EPA staff and regional tribes who are substantially affected by water quality within, and flowing out of Idaho. Based on the discussions during the call, the Kalispel Tribe must request formal consultation with EPA prior to approval of new Idaho Water Quality Standards.

The Kalispel Tribe is very concerned about the short notice for our participation and the approach described by EPA for partial approval of Idaho's water quality standards. The proposed approach perpetuates the environmental justice problems in the Pend Oreille and broader Upper Columbia Basins by only considering certain watersheds and better health protection for select tribes. The Kalispel have always relied heavily on catching and consuming fish from the Pend Oreille and Columbia Rivers. There is no reason to assume that the Kalispel people ate, or will eat, less fish than any other tribe within the Columbia Basin. We must ardently advocate for better water quality protection with the expectations that future Kalispel fish consumption rates will increase toward historic levels as lost native fish populations are restored and aquatic contaminants are reduced throughout the traditional fisheries of the Kalispel Tribe.

Please coordinate with my Water Resources Manager, Ken Merrill at kmerrill@knrd.org to arrange a mutually agreeable time for the consultation meeting.

Sincerely,



Deane Osterman, Exec. Director
Kalispel Natural Resources

Cc via email: Marylou Soscia, EPA
DR Michel, UCUT